(d) Consequent to the issue of order dated 28th February, 2002, no specific reactions have been received from the Central Government Employees Trade Unions.

Agricultural loans to women

1726. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some banks are not extending agricultural loans to women;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to provide such loans to women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) As per extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all domestic scheduled commercial banks are required to lend 18 per cent of their Net Bank Credit to agriculture. There is no distinction to be made on the basis of gender. However, with a view to strengthening the credit delivery to women, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all public sector banks to earmark 5 per cent of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) for lending to women by 31st March, 2004. This is expected to boost agricultural lending to women as well.

Model stock market exchange

t1727. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to set up a model exchange with a view to keep in declining confidence of investors in share market as well as to maintain the credibility of share workers;

(b) if so, by when; and

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.